

Message Text

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SUBJ: ITALSIDER'S CONTEMPLATED IMPORT OF AUSTRALIAN COKING COAL

REF: ROME 10556

AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, COMOFF APPROACHED TODAY DR. MARIO BUFFA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SUPPLIES OF ITALSIDER TO INQUIRE ON REPORTS OF LARGE IMPORTS OF COKING COAL FROM AUSTRALIA. DR. BUFFA STATED THAT THE FIGURE OF 150 MILLION TONS OF COAL ALLEGEDLY TO BE IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS, AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS, MILAN'S "24 ORE" OF JUNE 6, AND GENOA'S "CORRIERE MERCANTILE" OF MAY 26, WAS CLEARLY AN ERROR ON THE PART OF THE ARTICLES' DRAFTER. DR. BUFFA STATED THAT THE CORRECT FIGURE IS 1.5 REPEAT ONE AND ONE HALF MILLION TONS A YEAR, I.E. 15 REPEAT FIFTEEN MILLION TONS PROJECTED OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS. THIS IS THE AUSTRALIAN SHARE OF ITALSIDER'S FORECASTED GLOBAL NEED OF 100 MILLION TONS OF COKING COAL IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS, THE OTHER IMPORTS COMING, AS IN THE PAST, FROM THE U.S., W. GERMANY, POLAND AND USSR. OBVIOUSLY, DR. BUFFA COMMENTED, WE LOOK TO NEW SOURCES AND DIVERSIFIED WAYS TO SECURE A REGULAR FLOW OF RAW MATERIALS AND, WHEN POSSIBLE, AT FIXED COST. DI SCIULLO

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